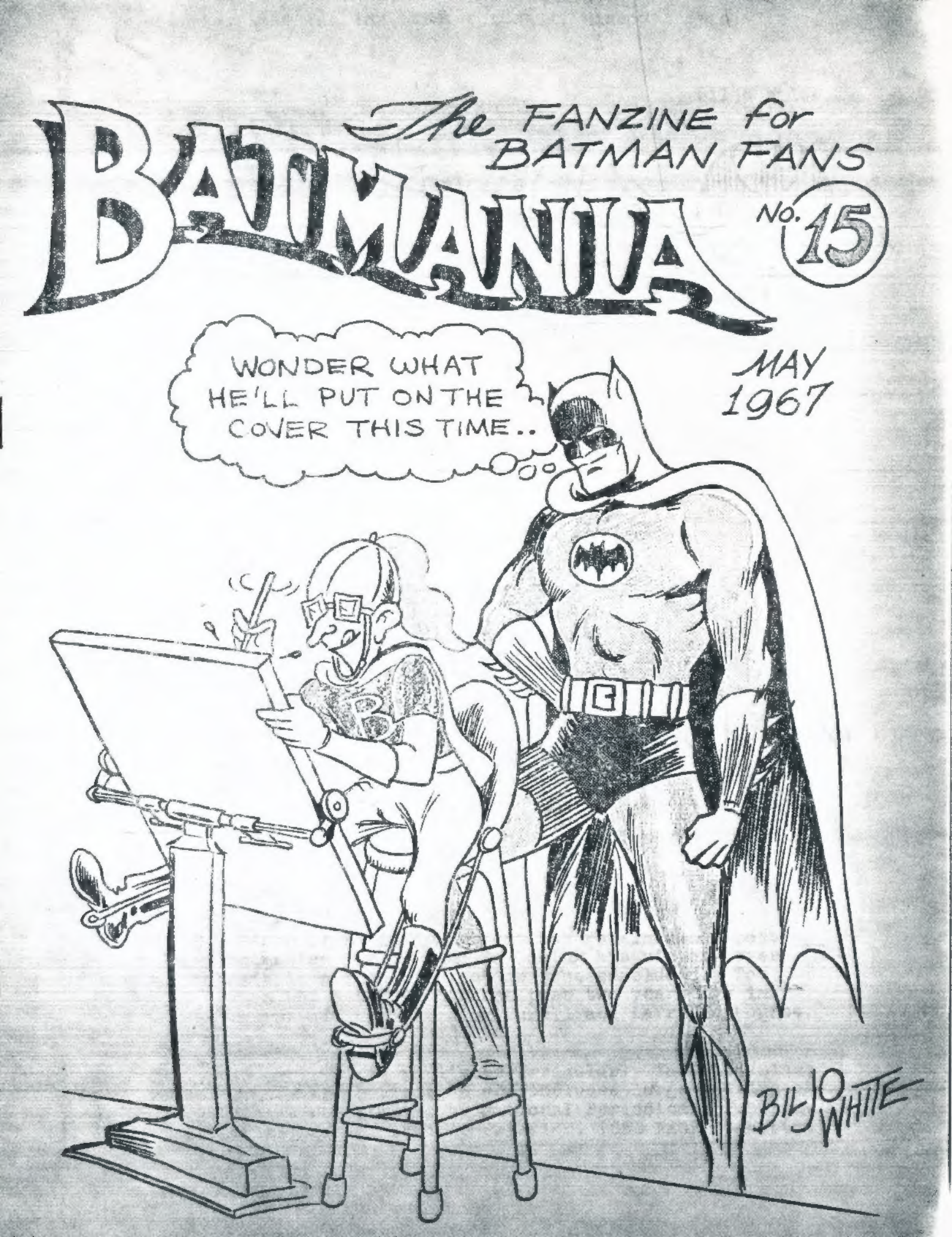
BATMANIA

The FANZINE for BATMAN FANS

No. 15

MAY 1967



No. 15 May 1967

Biljo White,
Editor

BATMANIA

Our objective--to join together those who enjoy reading, watching, and collecting the stories of Batman and Robin.

THE BAT-HEADLINER for MAY

TOM FAGAN RETAINS CHIEF-BATMANIAN POST

Tom Fagan of Rutland, Vermont has retained his post of Chief-Batmanian for 1967-68 following his victory over Bruce Roberts in a special election just concluded. Tom initially won the Bat-fans highest post two years ago in a three-way run-off against Rick Durell and Larry Raybourne.

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Californian Bruce Roberts, like Rick Durell in the 1965-66 election, carried the west coast easily, and was quite strong in the early returns. In his short duration as a Batmanian, Bruce has made a lot of friends and made the race an interesting one.

Tom Fagan's long record of achievements stood up well in the final vote as he came on strong mid-way in the voting, and from there on there seemed no doubt he would retain the post of Chief Batmanian.

For State Lieutenants of the USA and representatives world-wide, here are the victors -- those who will serve for 1967-68:

ALABAMA---Andy Zerbe, P.O.Box 6206, Montgomery; ALASKA---Jim Frisbe* ARIZONA---Bill Asbury*; ARKANSAS---David Johnson, 2000 Ora Drive, Fayetteville; CALIFORNIA---Bruce Roberts (address supplied on request); COLORADO---Bobby Reed, 6991 East 56th Ave., Commerce City; CONNECTICUT---John Amato, 710 Second Ave., West Haven; DELAWARE---Jack Garrett* FLORIDA---Gary Brown, 5430 West 6 Ct., Hialeah; GEORGIA---Gordon Flagg Jr., 1906 Clairmont Terrace,NE, Atlanta; HAWAII---Joanne Nix, 1333L Moku. Pl., Honolulu; IDAHO---Leroy Blair, 205 W. Pine Ave., Meridian; ILLINOIS---Phil Balthazor, 6851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago; INDIANA---Dwayne Calvert, 26 West St., Worthington; IOWA---Gem Meyer, 236 Summer St., Postville; KANSAS---Mark Dillman, 834 Plass Ave., Topeka; KENTUCKY---Randy Berry, 252 Winn St., Mt. Sterling; LOUISIANA---Nick Debelo, 418 S. Broad St., New Orleans; MAINE---Paul McEachern, Shirley Rd., Greenville; MARYLAND---Rick Weingroff, 3231 Southgreen Rd., Baltimore; MASSACHUSETTS---Barry M. Brooks, 54 Woodside Ave., Winthrop; MICHIGAN---Jerry Bails, P.O.Box 7499, North End station, Detroit; MINNESOTA---J. Randolph Cox, 514½ W. Third St., Northfield; MISSISSIPPI---Jimmy Fairchild (now in U.S.Navy); MISSOURI---Derrill Rothermich (now in U.S. Army at Ft. Leonard Wood,Mo.); MONTANA---Fred Sand, 1138 3rd Ave.W., Kalispell; NEBRASKA---Mike McCann*; NEVADA---Bob Stanley*; NEW HAMPSHIRE---Pat Barnes*; NEW JERSEY---James Faix, 1112 Ave. C, Bayonne; NEW MEXICO---John Cartwright*; NEW YORK---Mark Storchheim, 104-40 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills; NORTH CAROLINA---Edwin Murray, 2540 Chapel Hill Rd, Durham; NORTH DAKOTA---Bob Elder*; OHIO---Larry Raybourne, 27869 Lincoln Rd., Bay Village; OKLAHOMA---Mark Robertson, 504 E. Atkinson Dr., Midwest City; OREGON---Paul White, 12170 N.W. Marshall, Portland; PENNSYLVANIA---Sam Vorobely, 3131 Oxfield St., Pittsburgh; RHODE ISLAND---T. Richard Fleming, 37 Mt. Hope Ave., Providence; SOUTH CAROLINA---Wade Fulmer, 1920 Shady Lane, Columbia; SOUTH DAKOTA---Tom Maves, Presho; TENNESSEE---Bob George, Box 429 Station B, Vanderbilt Univ., Nashville; TEXAS---Craig Evans, 2214 Norman St., Pasadena; UTAH---Scott Gillespie, 1525 South 9th East, Salt Lake City; VERMONT---Tom Slayton, 73 Pine St., Rutland; VIRGINIA---Robert Bo[illegible], 9906 Colony Rd., Fairfax; WASHINGTON---Mike Robertson, Route 1, Box 95, Maple Valley; WEST VIRGINIA---Jerry Wells*; WISCONSIN---Keith Knudsen, 805 73rd St., Kenosha; WYOMING---Earl Douglass*

AUSTRALIA---John Ryan, 12 Barkley St., Fairfield, N.S.W.; CANADA---Glenn Brown, 78 Queen St., Sussex, N.B.; ENGLAND---Dave McCulloch, 9 Brindale House, Brindale Rd., Brinnington, Stockport, Cheshire; ITALY---Alfredo Castelli, Via M. Rosso, 15, Milano; SCOTLAND---Doug Conners, 16 Erskine Brae, Culross, Fife; SOUTH AFRICA---John Wright, P.O.Box 1277, Port Elizabeth; RUSSIA---Ivan Ivanovich (address withheld).

* Should any of the above Lt's be unable to serve, they should contact me immediately. The runner-up will then be designated. Congratulations to all winners. Watch the Bat-Bulletins for assignments.

Send all Comic Oddities and Bat-Facts to 1812 Jackson St.
Columbia, Mo. 65201

COMIC ODDITIES

and

BAT-FACTS

IF YOU DON'T THINK the above cartoon is funny, how about the caption: Snoopy saying to Cap'n Biljo, "Are you some kind of nut, or something?" Oh well, I still like Charles Schulz's PEANUTS.

THE GHOST RIDER #2's lost letters page. See the bottom of the last page of the last story, it reads: "Our letters section appears on the next page." There just ain't any, 'n no place else either. Spotted by Mark Dillman, as was the following.

BATMAN, YOU'RE YELLOW! (your gloves are anyway) Yes, in Batman #179, first story, page 4, panel 1, Batman's gloves are yellow. In the very next panel, he has no gloves! Could be he took 'em off to apply makeup. What say, Mark?

BATMANIA HITS ITALY! Holy World-wide! Batmania - The Fanzine for Batman Fans appeared recently in one of the first issues of the new Italian Batman Comics. A two-page spread was given the Batmanians and they showed pics of the covers done by Capt. Biljo. The Batmania membership certificate was also featured. Can anyone supply the Old Capt. with an extra copy?

REPRINTS ARE NOT NEW...according to Mike Maxim. All these annuals cluttering up the newsstands were beaten to the punch by Quality's old PLASTIC MAN comics. The first and third PM stories from the Mar. 1952 (#34) issue are reprinted as the first and third stories in PM #54, June 1955. The Woozy Winks story in PM #54 is copied directly from PM #32 - November 1951. More...The third story in PM #49 is a reprint from #23 - May 1950.

SAME TWO TITLES - BUT TWO DIFFERENT STORIES...the first story in Batman #124, June 1959, and 3rd strory in 80 PAGE GIANT #5, Dec. 1964, both

of these stories were titled: "The Invisible Batman." - Mark Dillman

IN CASE A CORRECTION HAS NOT BEEN MADE...In Batmania No. 7 it was stated Professor Strange (in "The Return of Professor Strange - BATMAN #1) had stumbled to his doom to never return. This is incorrect as noted by Jimmy Felix. Batman met Prof. Strange for a third time, and at the conclusion of the story Strange is knocked from a cliff to his death in a life-and-death struggle. Jimmy, in reporting this, claims Batman purposely pushed Strange to his death. Actually, in re-reading the story, Batman had little choice. Refer to DETECTIVE No. 46, page 12, panel 3, and make your own decision. (Bat-fans, this is where having a large collection of old Batman Comics makes research fun.)

BAT-FACTS and FIRSTS by John Amato

BATMAN #1 was the first to feature Joker and the Cat(woman)
#2 was the first to feature Joker and Catwoman in one story.
#16 introduces Alfred
#24 was the first to have Prof. Nichols send BM&R in time.
#25 was the first to feature Joker and Penguin together.
#49 was the first to feature Vicki Vale.
#92 was the first to feature Ace, the Bat-hound.
#131 was the first to feature "The Second BM&R Team."
#139 was the first to feature Bat-Girl.
#153 was the first book-length novel to be featured in BM.
#164 "New Look" in BATMAN COMICS.
#164 first "Mystery Analysts of Gotham City."

DETECTIVE #27 Batman with Commissioner Gordon.
#38 introduces Robin, the Boy Wonder
#40 first to feature the original Clayface.
#58 first to feature the Penguin
#66 first to feature the original Two-Face.
#140 first to feature the Riddler
#205 Origin of the Bat-Cave
#233 first Batwoman story
#267 was the first to feature Bat-mite
#327 was the first to feature the "New Look"
#328 Alfred dies
#354 was the first to feature the Outsider
#356 the Outsider is revealed as Alfred
#359 introduces the new Batgirl

MERRY, Girl of a Thousand Gimmicks, in STAR SPANGLED #89, is shown on the first page of the story in full costume, maskless, yet, through the rest of the story, when in full costume, she wears a mask. Any explanation? asks Bill Wilson.

HOLY PARTNERSHIP!!! Frank Sacco sent me the following clipping from a movie mag: "ADAM WEST and BOB KANE are forming their own television and motion picture production company in Hollywood." Believe it?

MINUTE MOVIES in the old FLASH COMICS, #17 to be exact, had two Chapter Fives. Spotted by Jim Jeremy.

BATMAN TV NEWS: The Wednesday installment of Batman will be canceled next fall. There will be only a half hour show per week. A Bat-Girl will be introduced.

The BATMANIANS SPEAK

James D. Faix
1112 Avenue C
Bayonne, N. J.

The Feb. 17 installment of the "Avengers", the ABC-TV program that does an amazing job of spoofing practically everything, was an excellent spoof of comic book heroes and Batman in particular.

The plot evolved around a comic strip character, the Winged Avenger, who went around "eradicating crime and ending injustice" in his own way by killing criminals who couldn't be touched by the long arm of the law. The Avengers, Patrick MacNee and Diana Rigg, were called in to investigate the recent similar murders of ruthless businessment.

References were made to collecting old comic books, the drawing of a few panels of art, and too, of course, Batman. One character, an inventor, designed a pair of "bat-wings" and was even pictured hanging from the ceiling.

The climax pitted MacNee, armed with some cardboard "twice up" comic book original art pages, against the Winged Avenger, claws and all. The fight background music was familiar to all Batman TV fans as it was the one and only Batman theme, and each time MacNee clubbed the Winged Avenger with a cardboard page, we were again reminded of Batman. All the pages displayed large, colorful "POW"s, "SPLAT"s, and "BAM"s. The spoof was obvious.

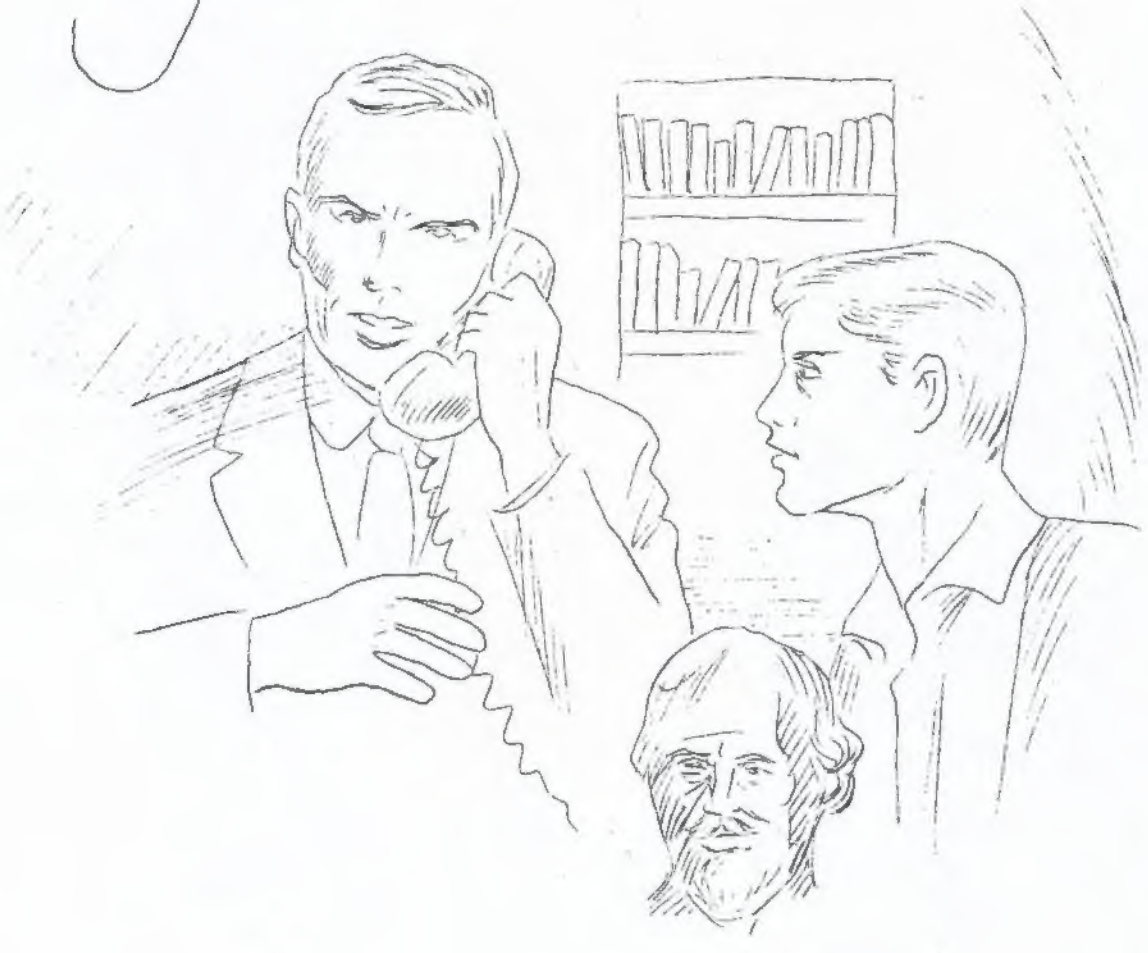
However, the "Winged Avenger" offers an interesting idea. Why not return Batman to an "outside the law" avenger as he was in his early career, restricting his efforts to hunting criminals whose methods, though crooked, are legal, and are protected by the law? Another idea I'd like to see discussed in the pages of Batmania is this - - What, if in the late 40s, Batman, along with Flash, Green Lantern, Atom, etc. had dropped in sales and been sent to comic limbo? Then, in the late 50s and early 60s, been "revived" in the style of the already mentioned Flash, Green Lantern, Hawkman, Atom, etc. What changes would have been made as to secret identity, costume (look at the difference between Alan Scott-Green Lantern's and Hal Jordan-Green Lantern's costume), modus operandi, etc.? Would Robin also be "revived"? And would the present-day Batman be better than he is? It's food for thought.

> Editor's note: Batmanians, here is your chance to participate in a round-robin discussion on the above topic brought up by James Faix. Do you have an opinion on how you think Batman would have been "revived?" This possibility has always intrigued me, so I invite your comments. They will be consolidated into a feature-length article.

A NOTE ABOUT THIS MONTH'S COVER...For the first time in many issues I have presented a fully spirit duplicated cover. Main reason for this is to give you color. But if you prefer off-set covers, say so.

BAT-FICTON #2

IT COULD HAPPEN TO *you*



by Fred Sand

"Jimmy, put down that Batman Comic. Get ready for school," said mom.

"Aw, mom, please let me finish. The story's just getting exciting. I've got lots of time," I said.

That was 30 years ago. I had better introduce myself, I'm James L. Lee, a resident of Glass City, USA. I was an average kid of the 40s. I enjoyed reading the comics of that era. Some of my favorites were The Flash, Superman, and most of all--Batman.

I was waken at 6:00 A.M. by my radio when it started automatically to play. I always set it so that I can listen to the 6:15 news. During the news, I heard something which I knew was impossible. This is what I heard, ". . . and that's the situation in Vietnam. Batman and Robin stop the Hartly gang from their attempt to rob the 1st National Bank. Save $500,000 from crooks. The remainder of the story after a word from our sponsor." That was all I recalled from the broadcast because I again fell asleep.

7:00, time to get ready for another day at the "old Battling Baltain," as I called the place where I worked. I vagually remembered the newscast. I thought it was just a pleasent dream I had during the night.

I got to my job as business consultant to the Myer's Printing Company on time for once in my life. The office seemed unusually gay, as if the problems of the world had been solved. I finished my work on the Satery account just in time for the morning coffee-break. I always have my break with my partner, Joe Anderson. We, as always, went across the street to the Walker Cafe for our usual coffee and sandwich. The conversation was on the same subjects (golf, cars, the stock market) until Joe said, "What did you think about Batman capturing the Hartly gang last night? Man, it sure is great to have those guys on the job." This statement startled me so much that I couldn't speak. Finally, I uttered a faint "What?" Joe gave me a funny look and said it was time to get back to work. The rest of the day was so busy that I couldn't get to Joe until almost five. I asked him what he was talking about at our coffee-break but he said hurriedly, "Can't talk now, Jim, I've got to get home. Sally and I are going to New York for the weekend.

The mystery was beginning to bother me a little. Batman wasn't real. He was only a comic character of my youth having no physical shape. My dream and the odd behavior from Joe. What does it mean?

When I got home, I looked at the mail. All bills, naturally. I prepared my dinner. I did my own cooking because I am not married. The dinner was soon consumed and I relaxed with the evening newspaper. There it was again, right on the front page. The headline read, "BATMAN CLEVERLY TRAPS THE HARTLY GANG." Now this was too much. I read the half-page article in less than a minute. "Batman's real, BATMAN IS REAL! Was I crazy? Was this all another of Joe's practical jokes? I had to find out.

Suddenly, it ocurred to me. If there was a Batman and if he was like the one in the comics of my childhood, there was one way to find out. I quickly went to the telephone and picked up the directrory. What was his name? what was that secret-identity I had read so often in my youth? BRUCE WAYNE, that was it, Bruce Wayne. My index finger ran down the list, Walters, Wanley, Waverly,--Wayne, Bruce Wayne. "It's true," I said to myself. Right there in front of me, Bruce Wayne, 283 Johnson Lane, 723-5472. I dailed the number. A highly refined British voice replied, "Wayne residence." I quickly put down the receiver. That was Alfred, Batman's butler. I had to find more about this. I dashed down to the newsstand where I always buy my newspapers. "To the Comic Section," raced through my head. I looked and looked but there was no comic containing Batman. I went to the clerk and said, "Excuse me, don't think I'm nuts, but do you have any Batman Comics?"

"What's wrong with you mister? If you want to find anything on Batman, look in the Factual Section," came the response.

I made my way home. I was glad it was Friday and that I did not have to go to work tomorrow. I tried to sleep. I couldn't. "What's wrong with me? Where had I been for the last 30 years? Am I going nuts?" These thoughts kept going around and around in my mind. Finally, about 4 o'clock, I fell asleep. The dreams I had that night were horrible.

The next morning, Saturday, March 12, I woke at 10:00 A.M. The first thing in my mind was to go see this Mr. Wayne. I called the number again and talked to the British gentlemen again.

He said, "Mr. Wayne is busy at the moment. Is there any message?"
"Could Mr. Wayne call me as soon as possible? It is very urgent. My number is 723-5531," I said.
"What is the nature of the call?" the Wayne butler asked.
"Tell him its about--Batman," I answered.
The British voice became very serious. "Could you come about 3:00 Mr. --ah, what's the name?"
"Mr. Lee," I replied, "3:00 would be just fine."

The hours crept by until it was 3:00. I arrived at the Wayne Estate. I rang the bell. Immediately, the butler answered.
"Come in Mr. Lee, Mr. Wayne is expecting you in his den. Follow me, please," the tall man said.
The butler! He looked exactly like the one in the comics I had read in my earlier years. I went through the doors into the den. There he was--Bruce(Batman)Wayne! And beside him--Dick(Robin)Grayson!

"This is the gentleman who wishes to speak with you Mr. Wayne," said Alfred.
"Mr. Lee, please sit down, I'm Bruce Wayne and this is my ward, Dick Grayson," the square jawed, muscular man said.

"Mr. Wayne, are you real?--I mean are you Batman?" I asked. This question startled both the man and the boy.
After a moment he said, "Where did you get that idea, Mr. Lee?"

I couldn't hold back any longer. I told the story of how, in my youth, I read about Batman and learned of his secrets. I pointed out,

in the den, the secret entrance to the Batcave and the hot-line to Commissioner Gordon's office. This convinced the two that I was telling the truth. We descended into the Batcave. I marveled at the electronic equipment and especially at the Batmobile. We talked for a while about my strange history. It was decided I was a threat to their secret identities and was liable to let some secrets of Batman out. Robin suggested that I be hypothized into forgetting all I knew about Batman. I consented.

March 13, Sunday, everything was back to normal for me. I picked up the early morning edition of the paper which was delivered earlier. There was another headline--"BATMAN ON TRAIL OF THE JOKER. SAYS JOKER WILL BE BEHIND BARS BY NIGHTFALL." I felt good. I remembered Joe's words from Friday, "It sure is great to have those two guys on the job." And it is.

--- Fred Sand

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

The Batmania ACHIEVEMENT AWARD winners for this issue are:

James K. Weston	Phil Balthazor
Fred Sand	Tod Smith
Harold Goodpaster	Rick Norwood
Dwayne Calvert	Larry Mitchell

Recipient of this award has shown outstanding service towards the cause of promoting a more universally accepted Batman. The AA is presented for some of the following reasons: recipient has gained attention in some news media for Batman and his/herself; made sufficient contribution (of news item, book, magazine, etc.) to the open files of Batmania (located at The White House of Comics); contributed an article for publication in Batmania. Watch for more winners.

WANTED BY THE OLD CAPTAIN:

I have been unable to tape all of the Batman TV shows this season, thus I need help in completing my set of shows. If you tape the show please contact me at once. I generally supply the tape and pay for your service and postage. I will also need your continued help on some future shows.

If your local Sunday newspaper carries 3-line (3 rows) Batman, I need any of these to replace 2-line Batmen strips my local paper carries.

If your paper carries Secret Agent X-9 (beginning soon with art by Al Williamson) please contact me. I plan to collect these.

CAPT. BILJO, 1812 JACKSON ST., COLUMBIA, MO.

3RD BATMANIA BALLOT Results

All [illegible] ballots [illegible] to
[illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible]
[illegible] the [illegible] votes.
[illegible] the results:

[illegible] COVER of the YEAR - [illegible] COVER - [illegible] (May'
[illegible] STORY of the YEAR - "DEATH [illegible] CHE[illegible]
TIMES" - BAT[illegible] C[illegible] # [illegible]

Bill Kane and Murphy Anderson teamed up to give us the best cover of 1966, according to the tally of the 3rd annual Batmania Ballot. In a little-and-but struggle with Death-Man, the Dynamic Duo seem to be losing the [illegible]. The much publicized Joe Kubert covers (Detective #348, #349, #[illegible] not, surprisingly, [illegible] voting. Bat-fans also [illegible] the Detective #[illegible] (Last Story [illegible] of Batman) cover. "Death" se[illegible] as the hit-theme-winner of the year as "Death Knocks Three Times" was selected as the best Story of the Year.

Carmine Infantino barely nosed out Bill Kane as the Batmanians Favorite artist of the year. John Broome took honors as the Favorite writer of '66.

One of the [illegible] of Villains, The Joker, was voted tops in the Favorite Villain category. "The Outsider" took many votes.

Bat-fans approved the idea of National printing a full annual of syndicated newspaper reprints from the '40's, as they did more newspaper reprints in the regular annuals.

Overall, the Batman TV show was rated Good. The newspaper strip rated only Good, held back mainly by poor art when the strip started. Few fans approve of the story-line.

The majority of Batmaniacs would like to see the "camp" taken out of All Batman media. The Batman TV show, however popular in the ratings, has disappointed the pre-TV batman fan. These comic fans "grit their teeth" at the "Holy ---" madness which eventually found its way into the comics.

The final Batman rating for 1966: "A Camp Batman Can Never Be Champ!"

AS ANNOUNCED IN BAT-BULLETIN #107, THE IDEA FOR BATMANIA-200 WAS REJECTED. INSTEAD OF THIS ISSUE BECOMING A REALITY, IT IS INSTEAD, A BONUS FILLER.

BATMANIA-200

FOR THE REMAINDER OF BATMANIA #15 THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE A SELECTION OF MATERIAL RECEIVED FOR THIS PLANNED INITIAL ISSUE.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO CONTRIBUTED AND EXPRESSED A VOTE OF CONFIDENCE TOWARD SUCH A PROJECT. ALL MATERIAL SUBMITTED WILL EVENTUALLY BE USED, IF NOT IN THIS VERY ISSUE.

DO NOT ORDER #16

IMPORTANT! - - -

NO ORDERS FOR BATMANIA #16 WILL BE ACCEPTED IN ADVANCE OF PUBLICATION. NO SUBSCRIPTIONS. WHEN #16 IS READY IT WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE BAT-BULLETIN. TO RECEIVE A COPY SEND A STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE FOR THE NEXT BULLETIN.

THE BRITISH SIDE OF BATMAN

News 'n' Views
from
Englands
Dave McCulloch....

With success in all fields of publish-ing tucked securely under their utili-ity belts, Batman & Robin now ven--ture into the one remain--ing outlet..... The dynamic duo hit the pulps.

The Batman World Adventure Series

First two titles, released November 1966 by WORLD DISTRIBUTORS (in con--junction with the official Batman fan club, Heanor, Derbyshire,) are "THE RINGER", and "THE LAST LAUGH". These are 68-page, pocket size mags, selling at 1/- each. Covers are nice "wash" jobs, with that on number 1 owing a good deal to Kuberts inter--pretation of Batman on the cover of Detective no.349.
The first novel features a new Batman adversary, "Ringer", and also throws in a guest appearance of The Mad Hat--ter, while the second book pits our hero against Catwoman and The Joker. Neither story has a writer credit, which is not surprising as apart from an irritating knack of continually using unneccessary multi-syllable words, the writer(s) has neither style nor the ability to create any kind of atmosphere. Unlike the Wil--ston Lyon novel, (which I don't condone as the epitome of Batman by any means....it's the only yardstick) the two British mags failed to hold my attention.
Characters are faithful to the T.V. series, with one or two inconsisten--cies.... Cheif O'Hara, for instance, is depicted as a rather fiery temper--ed character who speaks in the style of a '40's villain, while a new re--cruit at police headquarters, one Inspector Basch, is representive of the T.V. O'Hara. Likewise Aunt Harriet is no longer a relative of Dick Grayson, but has been relegated to the position of "a kindly house--keeper".
((Holy frustration.... It becomes in--creasingly difficult to keep track of the various "Batmen" currently in circulation--- Surely enough time has elapsed since the overnight success, (and resulting confusion) of the T.V.

Over.

show for the Batman factory to restore some kind of consistency.)
Barely adequate spot illo's are used throughout both books, most of which are original though some have been culled from D.C. (e.g. Alfred, The Joker, and the batmobile are strictly T.V, Robin fluctuates somewhat between Schiff and Swartz, and The Catwoman is of the old Selina Kyle "skirt & cape" period.)
There will be two issues of the Batman Library each month, and on a similar basis the company are also publishing a "Man from U.N.C.L.E" series. One puzzling thing --- A bottom of page credit note copyrights the mags to D.C, but also adds that they're released by arrangement with "Western Lithographing Co., Wisconsin, U.S.A. This would indicate that the books have previously been published in the States and are now being reprinted over here..... However, I'm assured by Bilge that this is not the case:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

As I cut these titbits onto master stencil, the third and fourth issues of the library have just appeared in the shops. (December.)
Titles are "Batman meets Dr. No-face", (3), and "The Penguin gets the bird", (4). Style and format as before, though of passing interest is the fact that the No-face issue briefly recaps the Batman origin, while both titles carry a mention of Dick Grayson making his mark at Woodrow Roosevelt Highschool.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Many of you are proally aware of the British weekly comic "Smash", which reprints (amongst other things) Batman daily and Sunday strips, but heres news of two new weeklies which should prove to be of particular interest.....
T.V. TORNADO. I've seen a full page cover reproduction of the first issue, and found it particularly attractive -- especially the colour work. This alone should grab the customers, and the promise of a really fantastic interior lineup will keep them coming back for more.....
Hold your breath.... Batman - Tarzan - Flash Gordon - Superman - The Phantom - The man from U.N.C.L.E. - Voyage to the bottom of the sea - Bonanza..... and others. Published by City Magazines, 167 Fleet st., London E.C.4, England, the first issue is due to hit the shops on Jan. 14th. 1967. Free gifts will be given with the first two issues, that in number 1 being a Batman figureine attached to a toy parachute.
No further details at present.
POW COMICS is the second of the two new titles, and comes from the "Smash" / Wham stable. Odhams press, Longacre, London W.C.2. Released on the same date as the previous title "Pow" will reprint the entire collection of Spiderman tales, beginning with the origin story from Amazing Adult Fantasy number 15. On the face of it this may seem a rather dreary prospect, especially since Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D reprints will also be featured.... However, allow me to point out that when Odhams introduced Marvel's Hulk series into "Smash it wasn't too long before an original story appeared amongst the reprints.....The British team did a particularly commendable job too. (Issue number 38 for Marvel collectors.) As is the usual practice with a new weekly title, gifts will be given free with the first two issues.... A "Spiderman web-shooter in number 1, a large iron-on transfer of Spidey in number 2. With Biljos permission, and if enough of you are interested, I'd like to prepare a complete review of the three previously mentioned comic papers for a future issue of Batmania..... Your letters to Bill might help.

(Over.)

Christmas, and as usual a heavy batch of hard-backed annuals are creating colourful displays in shop windows throughout the country --- Let's take a look at just two of them.....

First -- The Batman Annual for 1966/'67.

Published regularly for the past eight or ten years by Atlas publishing co, Brixton rd, London S.W.9, this latest issue features two black and white D.C. reprints from the early '60's,("Batman's interplanetary rival" and "Lair of the Sea Fox"),two full colour reprints from the mid '50's, ("The deadly dummy" and "Crimes of the Kiteman"), plus another tale from the early '60's, "Return of the second B & R team", which is printed throughout in yellow ink. The eighty pages are rounded off with three stories featuring The Martian Manhunter.

The book has good solid board covers with a rather poor, (though not unattractive) cover illustration..... Nice interior colourwork, though the black & white pages are just a little muzzy. Price. 7/6d.

Secondly, the debut of The Batman Story-book Annual.

A glossy and ultra-commercial product from the publishers of the pulp library series, and unfortunately slanted at the same age-group. Beautifully bound thick board covers are laminated with a plastic finish, which encases an eye-catching "wash" cover illustration. (For a reason I can't quite put my finger on, reminiscent of messrs Wilson & Croft.) Each page is faultlessly printed on high quality "stiff" paper, and without exception each page carries a largish, full colour illustration. There are seven stories in the book and although they're slanted at a younger age group and feature the "new" Batman, they differ refreshingly from the library series in that the Commissioner Gordon entourage is ignored, Batman and Robin prowling the rooftops in search of adventure and retaining just a little of the aura of mystery associated with their earlier exploits.

Story titles are...."Slaves of terror syndicate", "Night of the crab-men", "Wings of Nemesis", "Captain Midnight's last crime", "Copper-head", "House of horror", and "Snakes alive". 96 pages..Price 10/6

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

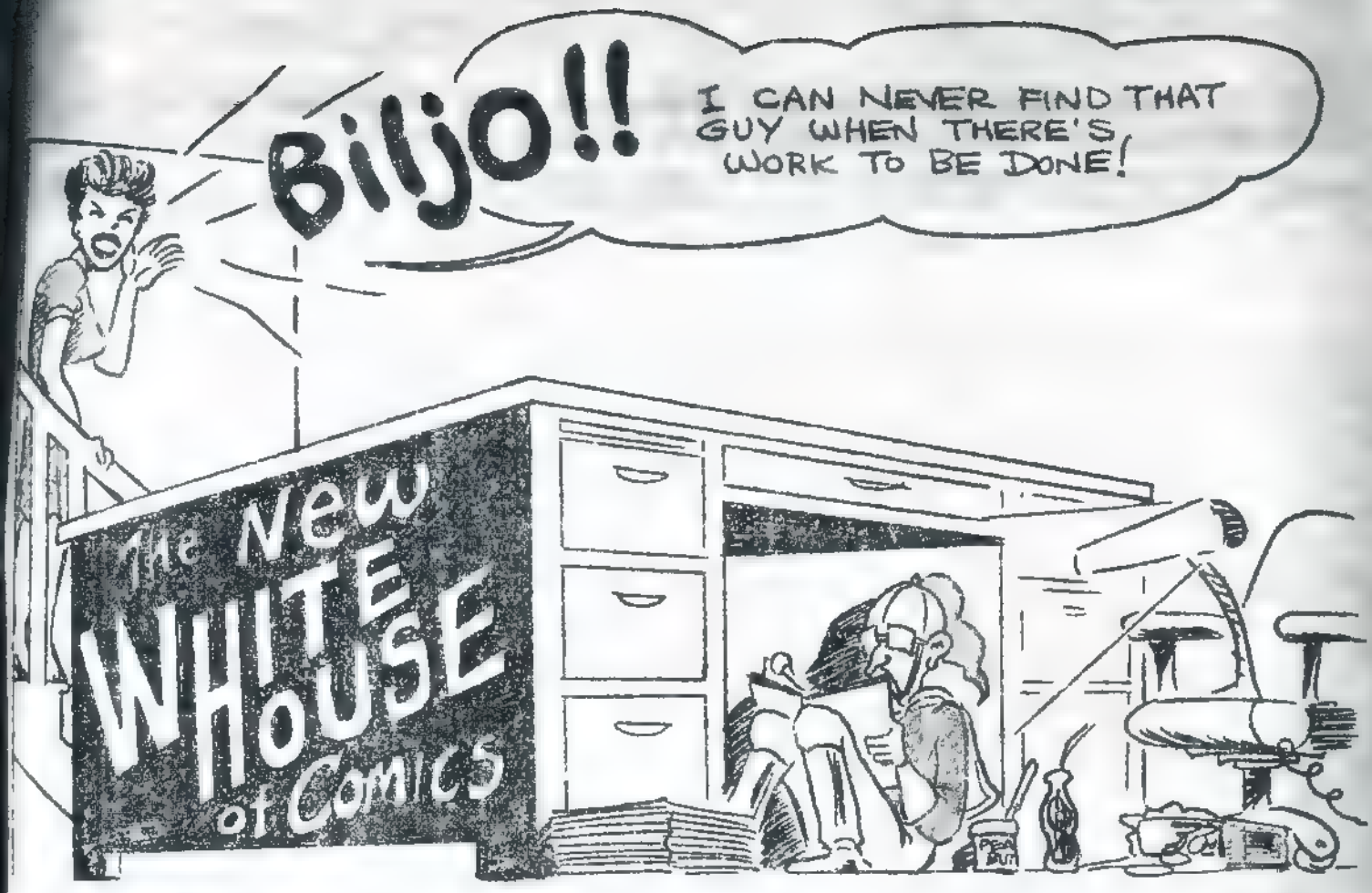
Shortly after the above annuals were published, two card-backed 68-page albums appeared in the shops. Published by Randlecourt printers ltd., London, at 2/6d each, these carry black & white D.C. reprints ranging from the late '40's to recent "new-look" stuff, and bunched together in this manner it becomes painfully apparent just how superior the older material really is.....I never had much faith in the so-called "golden age", but Batman is definately a case in point.

The books are numbered 1 & 2, but no regular schedule is listed, the appearance of future issues propably depending on the success of these first editions. They should do well as they're less expensive and far superior to the American pocket-book reprints (which, incidentally are also being published here, in their original format.)

Printing throughout is good, and pages are a good deal larger than the standard comic-book size.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

In closing, I'd like to thank all of you who've ordered the first issue of my fanzine "Comic Cuts" from Larry Herndon. My apologies for delay on this, and I'm happy to say that it will be out at the end of F February.



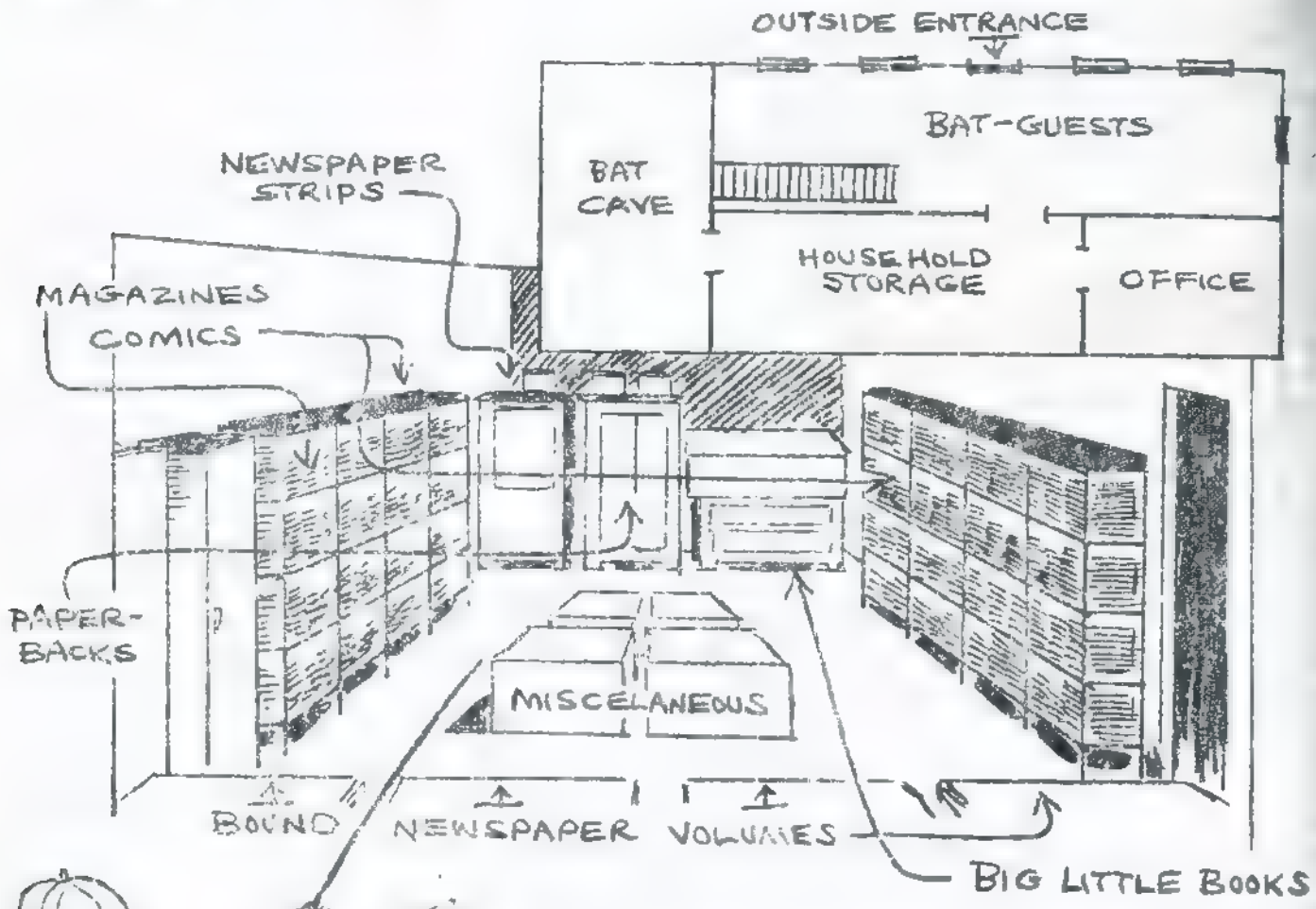
Or . . . WHY BILJO SPENDS SO MUCH TIME IN THE BASEMENT!

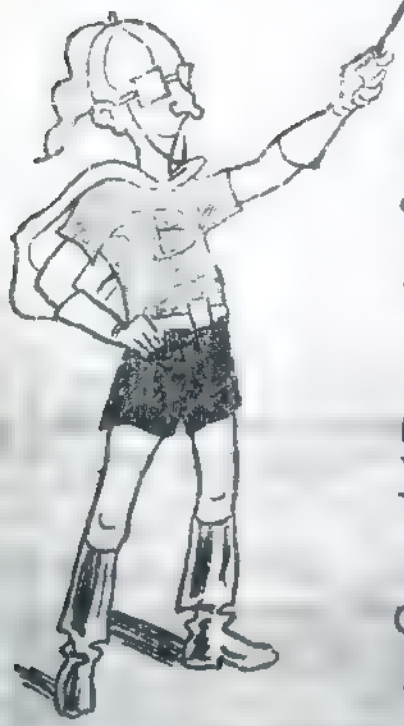
PERHAPS ALL DREAMS DO NOT COME TRUE, BUT WHEN ONE OF YOUR FAVORITE ONES DO, IT TRULY IS HEAVEN ON EARTH.

AFTER MANY CRAMPED, UNCOMFORTABLE YEARS THE WALLS OF THE OLD "WHITE HOUSE OF COMICS" HAVE COME TUMBLING DOWN. NO, EVEN THO I STILL BUY COMICS BY THE ARM LOADS, THE WALLS DID NOT GIVE WAY DUE TO OVER-STUFFING. I HAVE NOT TRADED AWAY THE PLEASURABLE YEARS OF HOARDING THOSE COLORFUL COLLECTOR'S ITEMS. NOR HAVE THIEVES MADE OFF WITH MY EVERY BREATHING MOMENT. SIMPLE FACT IS, I MOVED. THIS MEANT A NEW WHITE HOUSE, AND I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW HOW IT SHAPES UP.

FIRST OFF, THIS ADDRESS OF MINE = 1812 JACKSON, ONE WOULD THINK I'D TRY TO CREATE AN ATMOSPHERE SYMBOLIZING ANDREW JACKSON AND THE WAR OF 1812 — BUT IT SEEMED ENTIRELY OUT-OF-CHARACTER FOR THE OLD CAPT., SO . . .

I DECIDED TO STICK WITH BATMAN AND CREATED A "BAT-CAVE." THE MAIN BASIS FOR SUCH A DECISION IS THAT MY NEW HOME HAS — ALMOST — A CAVE. SINCE I LIKE TO DRAW, AND TO GIVE YOU A BETTER IDEA OF HOW THE NEW WHITE HOUSE IS QUICKLY TAKING FORM, HERE IS A SKETCH OF THE BAT-CAVE SECTION =



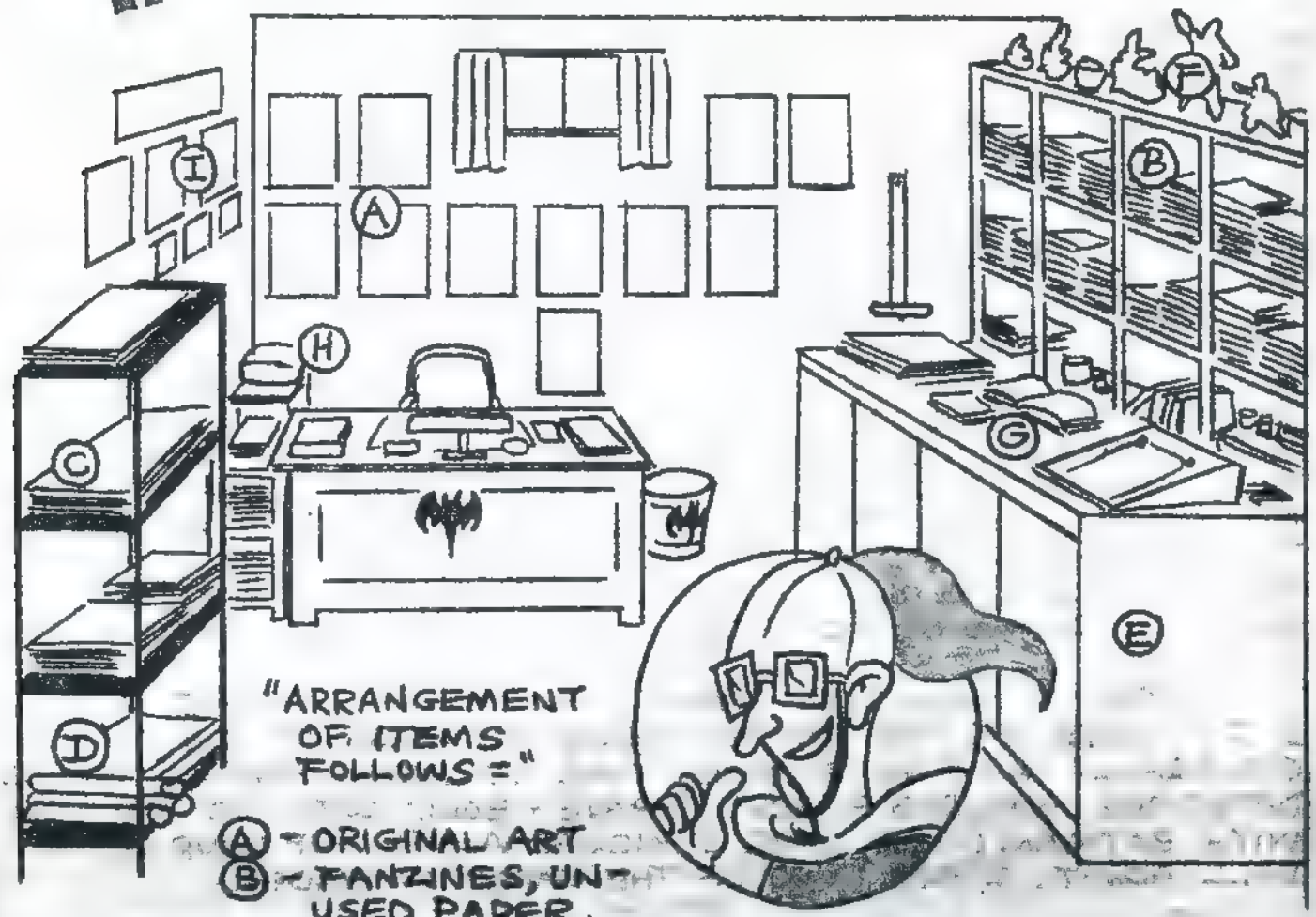


THE BAT-CAVE IS A FULLY-LINED CONCRETE BASEMENT ROOM RESTING BENEATH STATELY WAYNE MANOR — ER, I MEAN, MY ATTACHED GARAGE ABOVE. MY COMICS COLLECTION IS ARRANGED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER ON STEEL SHELVES. OTHER PARTS OF MY ACCUMULATION IS APTLY LABELED ABOVE.

COMPARED TO THE OLD CONCRETE BLOCK-HOUSE, WHICH SIMPLY HOUSED MY MATERIAL FOR YEARS, THIS NEW WHITE HOUSE ENABLES ME TO FULLY ENJOY MY HOBBY. I NO LONGER HAVE TO HUNT FOR AN ITEM, AND CAN DETERMINE IN MOMENTS IF I STILL HAVE A FORGOTTEN ITEM. (TRADING GETS HOT-AND-HEAVY SOMETIMES.) NOW ... LET'S TAKE A LOOK AT THE OFFICE.

I'VE NEEDED FOR SOME TIME AN ADEQUATE AREA TO SET UP, WORK ON, AND LEAVE FOR INDEFINITE PERIODS, VARIOUS PROJECTS. AMONG THESE ARE = PREPARATION OF BATMANIA; OTHER FAN-COMMITMENTS; ORIGINAL ARTWORK; REMOVING COMIC STRIPS FROM BOUND VOLUMES; CATALOGUING COMICS FOR PERMANENT HOUSING IN THE "WHITE HOUSE" - ETC. IN THE PAST I HAVE NOT HAD THE SPACE TO FULLY ENJOY THE MANY FACETS OF MY HOBBY. WITH THIS IN MIND, I TOOK SAW AND HAMMER, TURNED ON MY FAVORITE FM STATION, AND BUILT THE OFFICIAL OFFICE OF THE NEW WHITE HOUSE. FROM THIS ROOM ALL FUTURE ISSUES OF BATMANIA WILL BE PREPARED. ALL MAIL TO THE WHITE HOUSE WILL BE JOYFULLY READ AS THE OLD CAPT. LEANS BACK IN HIS CONFORTABLE SWIVEL CHAIR. YOU CAN'T IMAGINE THE HAPPY FEELING I HAD UPON COMPLETION OF THE OFFICE AND USED IT FOR THE FIRST TIME.

HERE IS THE OFFICE =

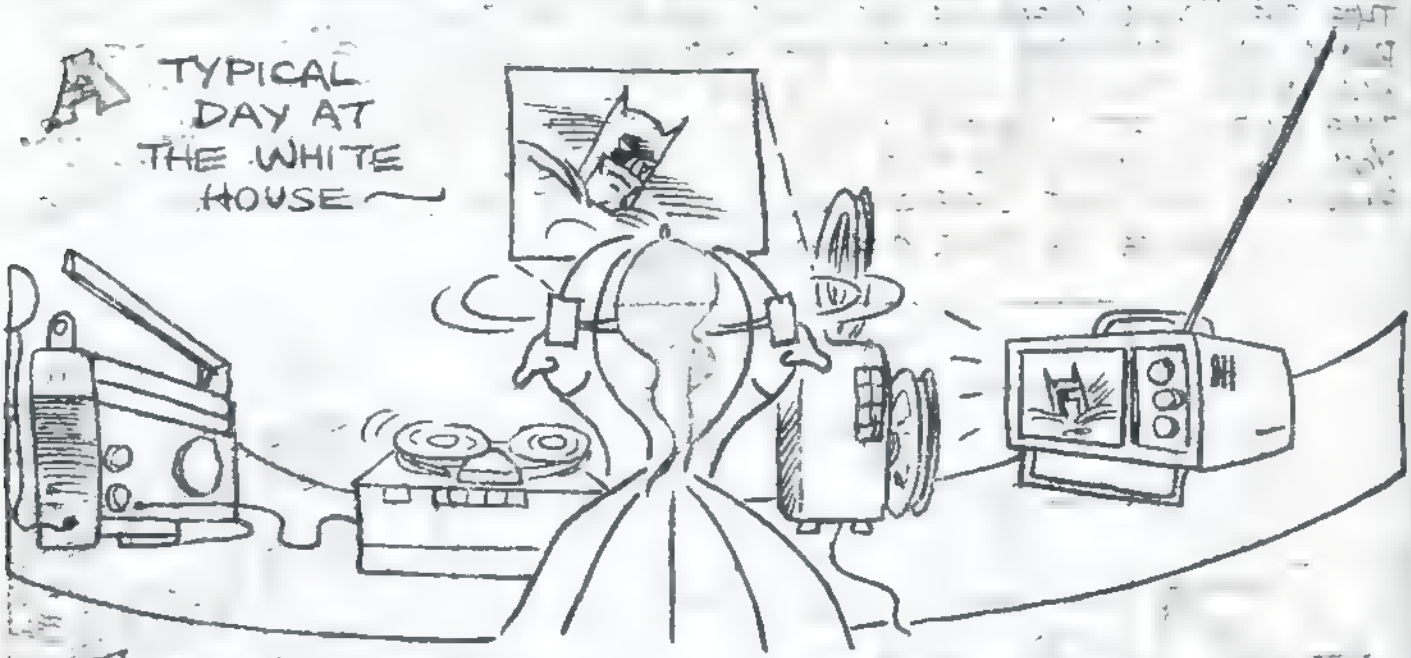


"ARRANGEMENT OF ITEMS FOLLOWS ="

(A) - ORIGINAL ART
(B) - FANZINES, UNUSED PAPER, STENCILS, ETC. (C) NEWSPAPER STRIPS TO BE SORTED, CLIPPED, ETC. (D) MAILING TUBES, WRAPPING PAPER, (E) STORAGE FOR MIMEO, DUPLICATOR, 8MM & 16MM MOVIE EQUIPMENT AND VARIOUS BATMAN MERCHANDISE, (F) DISPLAY OF ANY & ALL BATMAN FIGURES, STATUES, ETC. - INCLUDES OTHER COMIC CHARACTERS.

(G) TABLE TOP AREA COVERS 12' X 3½' - WHICH ENABLES ME TO SET UP 3-4 JOBS AT ONE TIME, BESIDES A DRAWING AREA, (H) FILE CABINET, (I) FAN PHOTOS AND OTHER PICTURES.

IT'S A FUNNY THING HOW COMIC COLLECTING HAS BRANCHED OUT INTO OTHER FIELDS OF ENJOYMENT. I'M BUILDING A LIBRARY OF RECORDING TAPE (I NEVER MISS TAPING BATMAN WHEN I'M HOME), AND MY LOVE OF OLD MOVIES HAS COME ON STRONG IN RECENT MONTHS.



FIRST, ABOVE ON THE LEFT, I TUNE MY TRANS-OCEANIC IN ON THE LOCAL TV STATION (FM), HOOK UP DIRECT TO MY SOUND-OF-MUSIC (COURIER) TAPE RECORDER (ELIMINATING OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE) AND VIEW THE SHOW I'M TAPING ON MY SONY 5-INCH TV SCREEN. TWICE A WEEK I GO THRU THIS ROUTINE — AND IN BETWEEN ONE MIGHT CATCH ME RESHOWING THE OLD BATMAN MOVIE SERIAL CHAPTERS AS SOLD BY COLUMBIA PICTURES.

NOW I WOULDN'T WANT YOU TO THINK THAT'S ALL I DO HERE AT THE WHITE HOUSE — 'CAUSE IT ISN'T. I GENERALLY MANAGE TO FIND TIME TO READ BATMAN COMICS, DETECTIVE, WORLD'S FINEST, BRAVE + BOLD WITH BATMAN, JLA WITH BATMAN (GEE, HAVE I MISSED ANY?). OF COURSE, I WILL ADMIT, I **AM** FOND OF THE CAPED CRUSADER.

I HOPE THIS HAS NOT BORED YOU, AND IT MAY ALL SOUND LIKE A LOT OF BRAGGADOCIO + AND TO A CERTAIN EXTENT IT IS + BUT REMEMBER, MY FRIEND, ROME WASN'T BUILT IN A DAY. THE NEW WHITE HOUSE OF COMICS WAS LONG AND HARD IN ARRIVING, BUT NOW THAT IT'S HERE, BY GOLLY, I'M GOING TO ENJOY IT!

Flash Gordon Flies Again: The 39 Atrocities

by Thomas Mc Geehan

Zaldu, leader of the sub surface people, is trying to blast his way to the surface once again, and eventually conquer and rule the Earth! But fortunately the one person who can possibly save our planet is called in to thwart the evil villain--Flash Gordon. Yes, accompanied by his sweetheart, Dale Arden, and Dr. Zarkov, Flash travels to this subterranean world near the center of the Earth and captures Zaldu once and for all. Now what does that make you think of? Buster Crabbe, Jean Rogers (or Carol Hughes), and Frank Shannon traveling to the underground world and capturing the evil hunch-backed Zaldu? If so, you better think again. For this is not one of the three great Flash Gordon serial masterpieces in which the above actors played Flash, Dale, and Zarkov respectively. It is just one of the 39 half hour episodes from the Flash Gordon TV series, entitled "The Subworld Revenge". This 1953 TV series had Flash a member of the GBI (Galaxy Bureau of Investigation) and played by Steve Holland, while Dale is an astro-physicist and played by Irene Champlin, and Dr. Zarkov, the worlds greatest scientist, played by Joe Nash.

About the only resemblance to this series and the original Flash Gordon which was created by Alex Raymond (and first published in the Sunday comic sections on 1/7/34 and in the daily comics on 5/27/40), or to the Flash Gordon movie serials for that matter, though, is the names of our heroes and heroine. As far as this series is concerned, Mongo, King, Aura, Prince Larin, Thun, the Hawkmen, and all the rest never existed. The time is supposed to be 2205 A.D., with Flash a member of the GBI, which is headed by Commander Paul Richards in some episodes and by Commissioner Heric Torgenson in others. Flash's spaceship is called the SKYLLA I until it's destroyed in one episode. Then they have SKYFLASH II, with the ship's mascot being a parrot named Casey. Unfortunately, Dale only wore the usual abbreviated costume in a few of the shows, wearing slacks in the majority of them instead. In one show, "The Sound Gun", they even had a new GBI rookie who was supposed to be Dale's younger brother named Phil Arden.

To show you what atrocities these shows were, lets take a look at one of them. I'll take "The Earth's Core" as an example, for this is an excellent theme, as anyone who's read Edgar Rice Burroughs' Earth's Core (Pellucidar) series well knows. If handled correctly, this theme can be very interesting and entertaining. And being a Flash Gordon story it should already be good to start with. And this was even a two parter, the sequel being "The Subworld Revenge".

In "The Earth's Core", Flash, Dale, and Zarkov have to travel to the center of the Earth, or near it I should say, to find out the cause of unexplainable earthquakes. The cause turns out to be a poor imitation of the Hunchback of Notre Dame by the name of Zaldu. He is planning to conquer and rule the Earth, and the making of the earthquakes is his first step in his plans for conquest. Zaldu tries to burn up our seemingly indestructible heroes on their way to his domain in an ERB-like Iron Mole invented by Dr. Zarkov. Zarkov is ready as usual, though, and pulls out his pocket size plati-jel instant sprayer and sprays Flash, Dale, and himself, which forms an insulation against the tremendous heat and "keeps them cool". Finally they arrive into Zaldu's glorious empire, and guess what it looks like? A four or five room apartment with a population of 20 or so!

Evidently this series, made in West Berlin, was a low budget quickie one, and couldn't stand the expense of a huge, real-looking underground city, with lots of extras to make it look populated. They couldn't even afford a miniature city set-up, which would have a helped a lot. Even the SPACE PATROL TV series, which must have had a low budget in its day too, utilized miniature futuristic cities and space ships that helped out the series a lot. Anyway, they no sooner arrive there then they manage to blow up Zaldu's large furnace, which he uses to harness the tremendous heat at the center of the Earth, destroying Zaldu in the process, or so they think. Then they beat a hasty retreat back to the Earth's surface, mission accomplished (for now).

Then there's the sequel "The Subworld Revenge". It isn't any better, with the same cheap sets and props. This is the series main fault, if you ask me, not having enough good sets, props, and scenes. The original Buster Crabbe Flash Gordon epics had all sorts of electrical gadgets, miniature cities and space ships, and good costumes and actors. Charles Middleton made a perfect Ming, ditto Buster Crabbe as Flash, Frank Shannon as Zarkov, etc. The big sets, such as the Great God Tao, even though they were borrowed from other movies after they were thru with them, were none the less interesting and added much to the Flash Gordon epics. The special effects were also excellent, especially considering they were made in the 30's. Now compare these masterpieces with the 39 atrocities starring Steve Hallard. This series, made in the 50's, should have utilized all the latest scientific advances of the day to make it seem much more futuristic than the Flash Gordon serials made in the 30's. But this they did not do. They used the cheapest of sets and props, hardly any gadgets, and even tho it was supposed to be 2203 A.D. and they had Faster Than Light Drive, Androids, space ships, etc., they still drove around in 1950 Volkswagens!

All the houses, bridges, cars, etc. in "2200 A.D." look just like the ones of our times, because that is exactly what they are. They used old film clips of flood scenes, and evidentially cut corners on cost any other way they could. I guess they figured that the name Flash Gordon would pre-sell the series and making 39 quickie episodes was just an easy way to make a fast buck. And in a way it worked too. For even though these 39 Flash Gordon episodes are atrocities, and it would have been a lot better for Flash Gordon had they never been made, they are nevrtheless Flash Gordon shows, authorized by King Features Syndicate, and as such are well worth watching at least once. I, myself, watched most of them three times each because they are Flash Gordon shows and because I wanted to index them, even though I think they are atrocities. As to whether Holland makes a suitable Flash, or Chaplin a Dale, or Nash a Zarkov, it's really a matter of opinion or taste. I, personally, think Buster Crabbe and the other serial cast made a much better Flash than Holland and the others. And I think the majority of the fans will agree with me too.

Another thing that made the Holland Flash Gordon TV series so "lousy" was the monotonous way they always figured out that something was wrong or what was going on. They would be going about their normal routine when Dr. Zarkov would say, "I have a theory, Flash, just a theory mind you, but..." and then Zarkov would go on to explain just what was happening. They used this gimmick in far to many shows, when once would have been sufficient. An example of this is in "The Dancing Death". Flash, Dale, and Zarkov are traveling in their space ship, listening to some music, when Zarkov uses the "ol' stanby gimmick" and says, "...but I think that music is evil and dangerous. Where does it come from?" (These quotes, by the way, may not be word for word as they were taken from memory.) So they find out where it comes from, which is the planet THOR, and rush there to investigate it. It turns out that a woman named Chelsey and a man named Mestnor, rulers of the planet THOR, can make music with a sort of super harp that makes people dance until they kill themselves. The harp looked as phony as ever and the music was awful.

The rulers of THOR want to get revenge on Flash Gordon, so they kidnap Dale and make her dance. But before she can kill herself, Flash arrives to save the day. It's really hard to describe just how bad this show, as well as the other 38 shows, really is. By just giving the plots you can make them seem real good. But one fact speaks for itself. There were only 39 FG episodes made in this series. Had it been a good series it would have lasted much longer. Even series such as SPACE PATROL (which was a fairly good science fiction series for its day, even though it had its faults too) lasted five years.

To know how bad the shows really are you have to see them for yourself. For example, in "Mission To Masca" Queen Satina of Masca uses a machine to take away all or most of the men's strength, so the women can rule. Guess where the strength is stored after the machine takes it away? In empty silk stocking boxes or reasonable facimiles at least! This one really gets you when you see it. Then there's "The Lure of Light". In it Queen Prudentia kills Dale and Flash finds it out. So he takes off in the SKYFLASH and uses his FTL (Faster Than Light) drive to go back in time so he can arrive on the planet Diana before Dale has been killed and thereby prevent her death. This establishes the fact that in his time they can travel in time and change the past. Yet in some shows where this time travel would come in handy, they don't use it.

Another show, "Encounter With Evil", was really a cheap one. They merely had Evil (which reminded me of an oversized Tobonga, from the 1957 movie "From Hell It Came") narrate two previous cases, "Akim The Terrible" and "Death In The Negative". Then they merely showed scenes from these two episodes. Sure a lot of series eventually ultilize old episodes by having the present persons telling what happened to them a few years back, such as the Father Knows Best series did. But they didn't do this until the series had ran for a few years, not during the first year! And there's "The Hunger Invasion". In this show they had what were supposed to be giant insects that ruled a planet in another galaxy. But they looked like anything but giant insects. Evidently they couldn't afford any kind of insect costume that was even half way decent.

To really judge the Steve Holland Flash Gordon TV series, especially as compared to the Buster Crabbe epics, you should see not only all of the 39 Steve Holland episodes, but the 40 chapters of the three Buster Crabbe FG serials as well. On that score I can say I have seen the 39 SH episodes three times each, when they were shown in the Los Angeles area on local channel 13 (KCOP) from 7-24-61 thru 9-15-61 and from 10-23-61 thru 2-9-62. It was at this time that I compiled all of my info on the series, which was made easier by the fact that they showed them in alphabetical order--just the opposite of the SUPERMAN TV series, which was never shown in any order (the re-runs in the L.A. area I mean). I have also seen all of the FG Buster Crabbe serials in edited movie form recently, when channel 13 ran them, and I'm now watching the complete serial chapters, which channel 13 is now running. (I had seen the complete FG serials back in the early 50's, when channel 13 had ran them on their TELEVENTURE series, but my memory of them was not that good.) So, after viewing both FG series, I can accurately say that, in my opinion, the BC serials are in a class far above what the SH episodes could ever be in.

"The Witch of Neptune", "The Brain Machine", and "Struggle To The End" together make up one plot in that order. "The Earth's Core" and "The Subworld Revenge" also consist of one plot. Each of the other 34 episodes is complete in itself. Now I'm going to list some general info on the Steve Holland FG series. Then I'm listing the 39 titles of them, with a brief plot line to each episode.

FG, DA, & DZ were all in every one of the 39 FG episodes.
Flash Gordon played by: Steve Holland
Dale Arden played by: Irene Champlin
Dr. Zarkov played by: Joe Nash
Directed by: Wallace Worsley Jr. and Gunther von Fritsch
Produced by: Wenzel Luedecke and Edward Gruskin
Production Manager: Fred Surin and George "Jorg" Zorer
Screenplay by: Edward Gruskin and EG & Bruce Geller
" Earl Markham & Bruce Elliot
Producers: Inter-Continental TV Films
Production Consultant: Joseph Zigman
An Interwest Film-Luedecke Production
Distributed by: Guild Films, Inc.
Cameraman: Arndt von Rautfeld
Music Theme by: Kurt Heuser
An Intercontinental TV Film Co. & Teledifusion Production.

(1) Akim The Terrible. A man named Akim, who rules his planet thru fear, uses his mind machine on a GEI agent by the name of Curt. Akim plans to use his control of Curt's mind to make him kill Flash Gordon.

(2) The Brain Machine. Zyderene, the Mad Witch of Neptune, steals all of Zarkov's and Richard's memories thru the use of a machine. She plans to use their knowledge to conquer and rule the galaxy. Marie Powers guest stars as Zyderene.

(3) The Breath of Death. A crook stows away aboard the SKY-FLASH and forces Flash to land on a planetoid that is covered with deadly gas, where they can refuel to permit the crook's escape. They have no space helmets and are forced to hold their breath, but while so doing they start fighting, the crook finally screams (and breathes), and dies.

(4) The Claim Jumpers. When a crook trys to steal an old man's Albanium claim on an asteroid, Flash steps in and captures the crook in short order, thus saving Pete's claim.

(5) The Dancing Death. A woman named Chelsey and a man named Nestnor of the planet Thor use a super harp to make music that makes you dance until you kill yourself. They want to get revenge on Flash by making Dale dance until she kills herself.

(6) Deadline At Noon. Flash, Dale, and Zarkov go back into the past to 1953 to try and deactivate a bomb that will blow up the Earth in the future at exactly at 12:00 noon.

(7) The Deadly Deception. Flash, Dale, Zarkov, and Torgenson believe that one of themselves in an adroid and will blow up and kill all of the representatives at an important meeting of the United Planets.

(8) Death In The Negative. The Queen of Cygni has a machine that negatizes people and eventually kills them. She plans to use this machine to become ruler of the galaxy.

(9) Duel Against Darkness. Flash and Zarkov pose as a minstrel and wizard in order to trap a wizard named Warbuck, who wants the king of the planet to remain in 14th century culture instead of modernizing like everyone else.

(10) The Earth's Core. Flash and company have to travel to the center of the Earth to find out the cause of unexplainable earthquakes, which have been caused by the evil Zaldu.

(11) The Electromen. Flash, Dale, and Zarkov go to the planet Odin, where they are captured by electromen. On orders from their great god M, they try to kill Dale.

(12) Encounter With Evil. Flash meets Evil (who reminds me of an oversized Tobonga, from the 1957 horror movie "From Hell It Came") who narrates two past cases to him, "Akim the Terrible" and "Death In The Negative".

(13) Escape Into Time. A crook named Bisdar forces Dale to go back in time to the Stone Age with him. But Flash follows them just in time to fight with a cave man who has just killed Bisdar.

(14) The Forbidden Experiment. Flash and company go to see Dr. Prentice, but when they arrive they find out that he has been killed by his own transmutation of a lion into a man.

(15) The Frightened Ring. Melmark the Magician is controling the king of the planet Zerkes by scientific magic, so Flash has to expose him.

(16) The Great Secret. Fur people try to steal a machine that can pull planets toward the sun (a solar gravitator) invented byZarkov and Dr. Witrist.

(17) Heat Wave. The Kalarians, who feel cold at 150 degrees above zero, try to make Earth hot so they can burn up all earthlings and take over the Earth.

(18) The Hunger Invasion. Giant insects, who rule their planet in another galaxy, cause the locust on Neptune and then on Pluto to become huge so they'll wipe out all of the crops and cause a famine.

(19) The Law of Velcrum. Due to a custom on her planet, Queen Lyra must give up her life now. So the queen finds a double for herself (Dale) to die in her place.

(20) The Lure of Light. Queen Prudentia of the planet Diana kidnaps and kills Dale, when she refuses to divulge the secret of Father Than Light drive.

(21) The Matter Duplicator. A scientist named Morini invents a matter duplicator that can reproduce anything and decides to use it illegally to make himself the richest man in the Universe.

(22) The Micro-Men Menace. A scientist threatens to shrink everyone on Earth unless they do as he commands. He mainly wants to get revenge on Dr. Zarkov.

(23) Mission To Masca. The Queen of Masca, or Femina as the queen calls it, uses a machine to swipe all the male's strength on her planet, so the women can rule.

(24) The Mystery of Phoros. Flash and Dale are forced to land on the planet Phoros for repairs. First the inhabitants try to kill them and then they are friendly.

(25) The Planet of Death. Flash and company go to the planet Torset to investigate Prof. Gibbon's claim that everyone in his party was killed by the curse of a stone god,Belfadore.

(26) The Race Against Time. When crooks can't buy Earth's vote at one of the United Planets elections, they try to kill Flash and company who are on their way to vote for Earth.

(27) The Rains of Death. All of the planets except Venus are being flooded with heavy rains, so Flash investigates to find out the cause of the rains.

(28) The Return of the Androids. Queen Fuvia of the planet Sithio and Tridon of Futura make a pact to get the secret of the Androids, and use them to conquer the Universe.

(29) Saboteurs From Space. King Cirius of the Planet X threatens to kill Flash and company unless they give him a list of Earth's 100 top scientists and have them come to X.

(30) The Shadowy Death. A man who can vanish at will (into the second dimension it turns out) attacks Flash. Flash suspects that the attacker is Prince Klangor.

(31) The Skyjackers. Two crooks force Zarkov to show them how the molecular densifier invented by Prof. Talmundy works. This machine makes gravity heavier.

(32) The Sound Gun. Prof. Gregory Mulmum invents a machine that can pick up and magnify sound at great distances. He helps the planet Janice with it, for evil purposes, while framing a new GBI rookie, Phil Arden, Dale's brother.

(33) The Space Smugglers. Flash and Dale are assigned to find out how brain taps, which can be used to control a person's mind, are being smuggled past customs.

(34) Struggle To The End. Zyderene escapes, but Flash and Dale help Zarkov and Richards regain their memories. They then set out after Zyderene again. Marie Powers guest stars.

(35) The Subworld Revenge. Zarkov invents a machine that allows them to see right down to the center of the Earth. This enables them to learn that Zaldu is still alive and is planning to attack the upper surface once again.

(36) The Vergeance of Rabeed. A man several hundred years old named Rabeed finds the secret of immortality and wants Dale to marry him so they can rule the galaxcy together.

(37) The Water World Menace. Zarkov's air supply is almost exausted on the asteroid he's on. But before he can save Zarkov he must first rescue Dale who has been captured by Frog People.

(38) The Weapon That Walked. Crooks try to make use of a girl, who's vision turns people into stone, to help them steal some valuable Crillium (The U.P. main source of power).

(39) The Witch of Neptune. Zyderene forces Richards and Zarkov to help her blow up the Methane-to-Oxygen converter on Neptune, and then erases this memory from their minds. Marie Powers guest stars as Zyderene.

I wonder what the chances are of some company making a new, big-budget, Flash Gordon movie in color and cinemascope? Or someone making a brand new, Alex Raymond-type, FG series for TV? If Lost In Space, Star Strek, Time Tunnel, The Invaders, etc. can make it, I don't see why a good FG series couldn't. Unless such a movie or TV series was done right, tho, it'd be better to leave well enough alone, as we wouldn't want a repeat of the Steve Holland 39 atrocities!

Flash Gordon Flies Again: The 39 Atrocities (The End)

by Thomas Mc Geehan